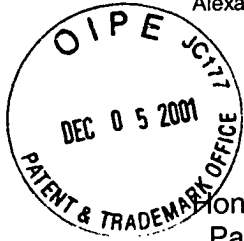


**SHANKS & HERBERT**

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December 5, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Appl. No.: 09/423,378  
Filed: January 28, 2000  
For: Method and Apparatus for the Centralized  
Collection of Geographically Distributed Data  
Inventor(s): Kozam, et al.  
Our Ref: 0106-0001

Sir:

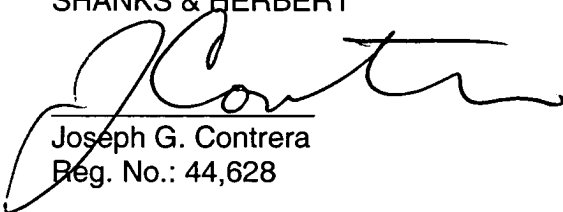
The following document is forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Request for Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d)
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136
3. Transmittal Cover Letter
4. Check for \$445.00
5. (2) Postcards

It is respectfully requested that the attached prepaid postcard be stamped with the  
date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

Respectfully submitted,

SHANKS & HERBERT

  
Joseph G. Contrera  
Reg. No.: 44,628

Date: 12/5/01

TransPotomac Plaza  
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Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 683-3600

09/12/2001 00000061 500622 09423378

09 703-683-3600 370.00 CH  
10 703-683-9875 126.00 CH  
11 703-683-9875 31.00 CH

\*If the difference in Col. 1 is less than "0", enter "0" in Col. 2

Total \$577 or Total \$

6. ☒ Small entity status: Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees to Deposit Account No.50-0622:
- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16.
- b. ☒ Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.
- c. ☐ Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18.
8. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 445.00 is enclosed.
9. ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
10. ☐ Applicant requests suspension of action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(b) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months (not to exceed 3 months) and the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
11. ☒ New Attorney Docket Number, if desired 0106-0001CPA
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard.
13. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
14. ☐ New Correspondence Address (Note: The prior application's correspondence address will carry over to this CPA UNLESS a new correspondence address is provided below.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

15. ☒ **PETITION FOR EXTENSION.** If any extension of time is necessary for the filing of this application, including any extension in the parent application and this application, and such extension has not otherwise been requested, such an extension is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge necessary fees for such an extension to our Deposit Account No. 50-0622. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for use in charging the deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

SHANKS & HERBERT

  
Joseph G. Contrera

Reg. No.:44,628

Date: December 5, 2001

TransPotomac Plaza  
1033 N. Fairfax St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
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#### **NOTE TO PREPARER**

**FILING QUALIFICATIONS.** The prior application identified must be a non-provisional application that is either: (1) completed as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(b), or (2) the national stage of an international application in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 371. Effective May 29, 2000, a CPA may only be filed in a utility or a plant application if the prior non-provisional application was filed before May 29, 2000. A CPA may be filed in a design application regardless of the filing date of the prior application.

**C-I-P NOT PERMITTED.** A continuation-in-part application cannot be filed as a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but must be filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

**EXPRESS ABANDONMENT OF PRIOR APPLICATION.** The filing of this CPA is a request to expressly abandon the prior application as of the filing date of the request for a CPA. 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) must be used to file a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of an application that is not to be abandoned.

**ACCESS TO PRIOR APPLICATION.** The filing of this CPA will be construed to include a waiver of confidentiality by the applicant under 35 U.S.C. § 122 to the extent that any member of the public who is entitled under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.14 to access to, copies of, or information concerning, the prior application may be given similar access to, copies of, or similar information concerning, the other application in the file jacket.

**35 U.S.C. § 120 STATEMENT.** In a CPA, no reference to the prior application is needed in the first sentence of the specification and none should be submitted. If a sentence referencing the prior application is submitted, it will not be entered. A request for a CPA is the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and to every application assigned the application number identified in such request, 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a).